

## A new *Parachtes* Alicata, 1964 species from the Iberian Peninsula (Araneae, Dysderidae)

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### Summary

A new species of *Parachtes* from the Iberian Peninsula is described. This new species is the most westerly record of the genus and it was collected in a protected area, Cabañeros National Park.

### Introduction

*Parachtes* Alicata, 1964 is a genus of medium-size epigeal spiders which were previously included in *Harpactocrates* Simon, 1914 owing to their close general similarity. However, the eye arrangement, femoral spination and, mainly, genital structure led Alicata (1964) to separate them in a new genus.

The genus *Parachtes* contains 11 species with a very narrow distribution: Iberian Peninsula, Pyrénées, Italian Peninsula, Sicily, Corsica and Sardinia (Alicata, 1964, 1966). Three of them are present in the Iberian Peninsula (Ferrández, 1990): *P. cantabrorum* (Simon, 1914), *P. deminutus* (Denis, 1957) and *P. teruelis* (Kraus, 1955). *Parachtes ignavus* (Simon, 1882), recorded by Simon (1884) from Burgos, should be considered a misidentification (Ferrández, 1990). The species occupy the north-eastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, except *P. deminutus*, which is recorded from the Sierra Nevada (Ferrández, 1990) (Map 1).

In this paper a new *Parachtes* species from the Iberian Peninsula is described. This represents the most westerly record of the genus. All measurements are in mm.

### *Parachtes lobo* sp. n. (Figs. 1–7)

**Type material:** Holotype ♂, Spain, Ciudad Real, Retuerta del Bullaque, Cabañeros National Park, 39°24'N, 4°29'W (geographical co-ordinates in Universal Transversal Mercator projection system 30SUJ7262), 1 June 2001, J. Serrano leg. (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales Collection, Madrid, MNCN 20.02/14854). Paratypes: 1♀, same data as holotype, 8 November 2001; 1♂, same data as holotype, 22 May 2002; 1♂ 2♀, same data as holotype, 4 June 2002; 6♂ 1♀, Spain, Ciudad Real, Retuerta del Bullaque, Cabañeros National Park, 39°24'N, 4°30'W (geographical co-ordinates in Universal Transversal Mercator projection system 30SUJ7162), 1 June 2001; 3♂, same data, 22 May 2002; 6♂, same data, 4 June 2002; 1♂, Spain, Ciudad Real, Navas de Estena, Cabañeros

National Park, 39°29'N, 4°34'W (geographical co-ordinates in Universal Transversal Mercator projection system 30SUJ6673), 9 November 2001. All material J. Serrano leg. and deposited in Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales Collection, Madrid.

**Etymology:** The first author is happy to dedicate this species to his friend and PhD tutor, Jorge M. Lobo.

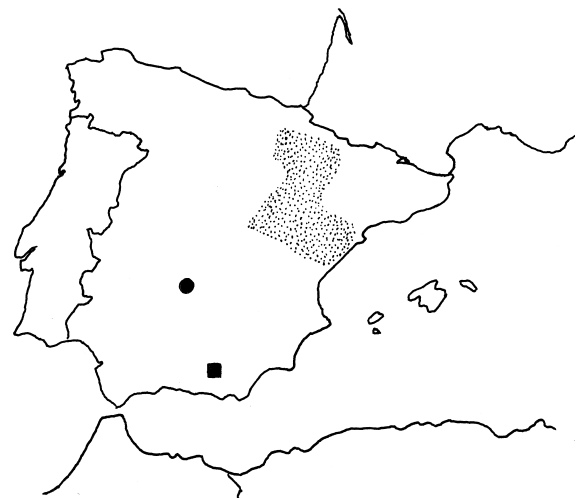
**Diagnosis:** The male of this new species clearly differs from all the described *Parachtes* species in the bifurcated lamellate recurved extension of the tegulum (Fig. 5). The vulval structure is close to that of *P. teruelis* from Spain (cf. Fig. 6 and Romano & Ferrández, 1983: fig. 3), but differs slightly in the sinuous posterior edge of the anteroventral valve transverse sclerotised arch.

**Description:** General appearance as other species of the genus (see Alicata, 1964): carapace and appendages reddish, abdomen greyish covered with extremely thin short hairs.

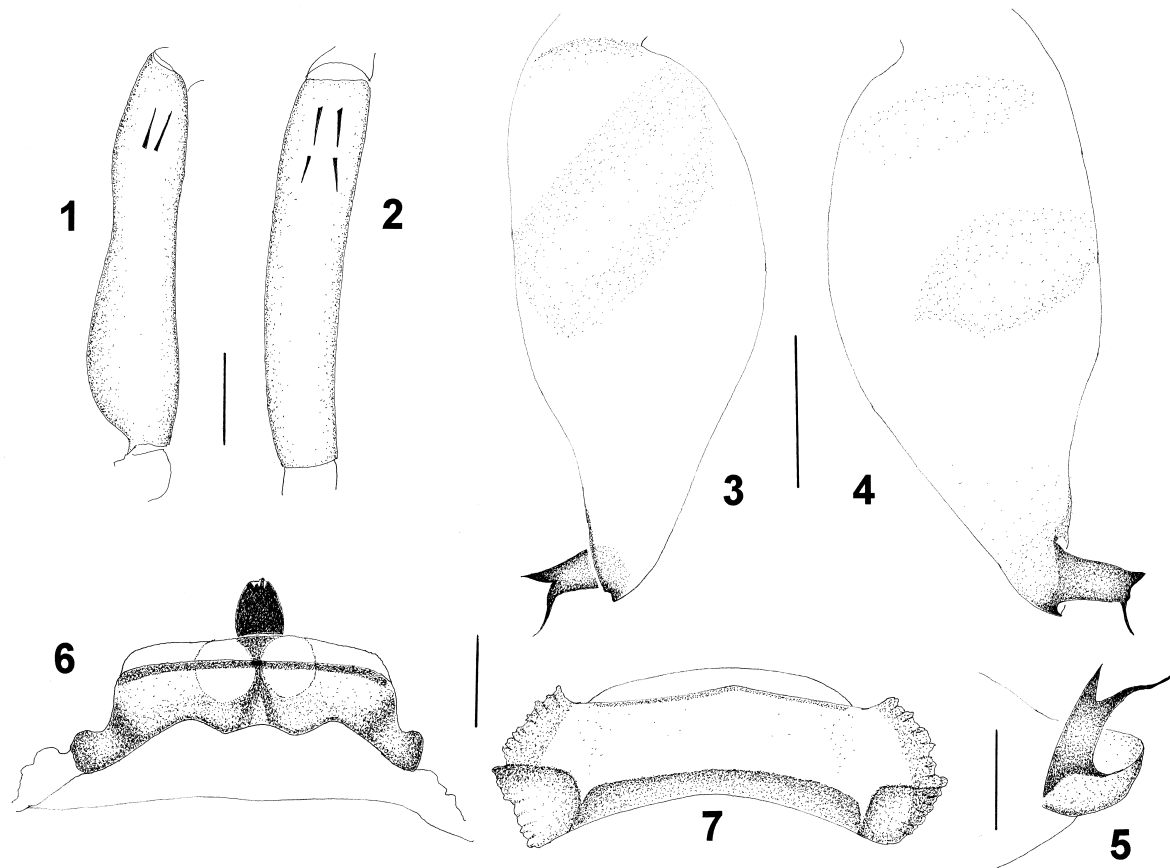
**Male:** Measurements: holotype (paratypes): carapace length 3.5 (3.0–3.6), maximum width 2.8 (2.3–2.8), minimum width 1.75 (1.35–1.75). Holotype femoral spination (left–right): I 2-2, II 1-2, III 0-0, IV 4-4 (Figs. 1–2). This spination pattern is variable: Fe I rarely has only one spine, Fe II can have 0–2 spines, Fe III rarely has 1 spine, Fe IV ranges from 2–5 spines. Palp (Figs. 3–5): bulb oval; lamellate distal extension clearly differentiated from bulb, much shorter than bulb, strongly recurved, asymmetrically bifurcated at distal end into long whip-like embolus and shorter apophysis.

**Female:** Measurements (paratypes): carapace length 3.3–3.9, maximum width 2.6–2.9, minimum width 1.65–1.75. Femoral spination (left–right): I 2-2, II 1-1, III 0-0, IV 3-4, Fe II may have 2 spines. Vulva: anteroventral valve with very wide transverse sclerotised arch, its posterior edge sinuous (Fig. 6); sclerotised zone of posterodorsal valve wide, slightly curved (Fig. 7).

**Affinities:** The lamellate recurved distal extension of the bulb seems to relate *P. lobo* sp. n. with *P. deminutus* and *P. cantabrorum* from the Iberian Peninsula and with



Map 1: Distribution of *Parachtes* species in the Iberian Peninsula. Circle=*Parachtes lobo* sp. n.; square=*P. deminutus*; dotted area=*P. teruelis*. *Parachtes cantabrorum* has been cited from the Pyrénées, without specified locality.



Figs. 1–7: *Parachtes loboi* sp. n. **1** Femur I, ventral view; **2** Femur IV, dorsal view; **3** Male, right bulb, prolateral view; **4** Ditto, retrolateral view; **5** Detail of lamellate distal extension of bulb with whip-like embolus, ventrolateral view, slightly apical; **6** Female, anteroventral valve, atrial view; **7** Female, posterodorsal valve. Scale lines=0.64 mm (1–2), 0.26 mm (3–4), 0.15 mm (5), 0.15 mm (6–7).

*P. andreinii* Alicata, 1966 from Italy. However, the whip-like embolus with the associated apophysis relates the new species with *P. teruelis*.

**Habitat:** All the specimens were captured in covered pitfall traps. Navas de Estena is an oak forest (*Quercus rotundifolia* Lam., *Q. pyrenaica* Willd. and *Q. suber* L.) located at 800 m elevation, on a shady rocky slope. These environmental conditions support the best Mediterranean forests of the area. Retuerta del Bullaque is a *Pinus pinaster* Ait. plantation (7,500 km<sup>2</sup>) dating from the late 1960s, located at 970 m elevation, which has not been exploited for 13 years, with occasional clearings to avoid summer fires. The shrub layer consists mainly of *Erica arborea* L. *Parachtes loboi* sp. n. seems to be a forest species, as many other non-woodland habitats have been intensively surveyed in Cabañeros National Park and no more specimens have been collected.

**Distribution:** All the material has been collected in the province of Ciudad Real, in central Spain (Map 1). All the collection sites are located in a Natural Protected Area, Cabañeros National Park, which is part of the Montes de Toledo mountain range. The pine plantation, where the great majority of the specimens were collected, is being progressively cleared in order to restore the original Mediterranean oak forest.

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